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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,149	09/24/2003	Tomoyuki Atsumi	1018987-000054	2756
21839 7590 12/28/2009 BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404				
EXAMINER				
NGUYEN, ALLEN H				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2625				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/28/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/668,149

Applicant(s)

ATSUMI, TOMOYUKI

Examiner

Allen H. Nguyen

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2009.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-13, 20 and 21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-19 and 22 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-19, 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 14-17, 19, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuller et al. (US 5,224,156) in view of Rogers et al. (US 5,946,386).

Regarding claim 14, Fuller '156 discloses a fax data transmission device (Facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4) comprising:

a first storing unit (first memory means 24, fig. 1) operable to store fax data and an identifier for identifying the fax data, in correspondence with each other (The facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 will intercept the incoming data or message and store the information/data in an appropriate mailbox in first memory means 24; see col. 4, lines 35-45);

a second storing unit (second memory means 26, fig. 1) operable to store

information showing a correspondence between an original destination (local facsimile machine, fig. 1) of the fax data and a send information destination (The information is digitized by the fax modem chip 18 and stored in second memory means 26. The user is prompted by the LCD display 30 to enter the telephone number (step 90) of the remote location at which he wishes to be notified; see col. 8, lines 25-40), the send information destination being a destination of send information which includes the identifier and a notification (a notification on the local facsimile machine which will include the time the facsimile message is received, the number of the mailbox in which the message is stored and the sender ID, col. 6, lines 45-50) that the fax data identified by the identifier is going to be sent (apparatus 60 to call a telephone number and output a message notifying him that he has received a facsimile message which has been stored in his mailbox; see col. 7, lines 45-60);

a notifying unit (in 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4) operable to send the send information to the send information destination corresponding to the original destination of the fax data, with reference to the information stored in the second storing unit (the facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 can cause facsimile messages sent to him to be delivered to a memory location and that he be notified that he has a facsimile message waiting for him; see col. 2, lines 53-60);

a sending unit (in 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4) operable to send the fax data to the destination specified by the destination information (user may call from a facsimile machine at a remote location and instruct apparatus 60 to transmit the facsimile message on the same phone call and request the apparatus 60 to print his facsimile

message on the local facsimile machine; see col. 8, lines 1-7 and col. 9, lines 48-55, fig. 7).

Although Fuller teaches a receiving unit operable to receive destination information for specifying a destination to which the fax data should actually be sent; Fuller '156 does not explicitly show a receiving unit operable to receive destination information for specifying a destination to which the fax data should actually be sent, as a reply to the send information.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Rogers '386. In particular, Rogers '386 teaches a receiving unit (101, fig. 1) operable to receive destination information for specifying a destination to which the fax data should actually be sent, as a reply to the send information (When notified, the destination party 111, 113 may review the list of unread Fax or data messages and then may request that the Fax or data message be transported to their workstation 114 via the digital network(s) 109, from whence it can be viewed, printed, archived and treated as any other such file; see col. 40, lines 45-50).

In view of the above, having the system of Fuller and then given the well-established teaching of Rogers, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Fuller as taught by Rogers to include: a receiving unit operable to receive destination information for specifying a destination to which the fax data should actually be sent, as a reply to the send information, since Rogers stated in col. 1, lines 45-47 that such a modification

would ensure the system alters the architecture and philosophy of the past, providing the users an array of new features and functions and expanded existing features.

Regarding claim 15, Fuller '156 discloses the fax data transmission device (Facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4), wherein the notifying unit sends the send information via a voice message (apparatus 60 to call a telephone number and output a voice message notifying him that he has received a facsimile message which has been stored in his mailbox; see col. 7, lines 50-65), and the receiving unit receives the destination information via a facsimile message (user may call from a facsimile machine at a remote location and instruct apparatus 60 to transmit the facsimile message immediately on the same phone call; see col. 8, lines 1-5).

Fuller '156 does not explicitly show the send information via an internet mail.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Rogers '386. In particular, Rogers '386 teaches the send information via an internet mail (i.e., e-mail Notification; see col. 28, lines 40-55).

In view of the above, having the system of Fuller and then given the well-established teaching of Rogers, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Fuller as taught by Rogers to include: the send information via an internet mail, since Rogers stated in col. 1, lines 45-47 that such a modification would ensure the system alters the

architecture and philosophy of the past, providing the users an array of new features and functions and expanded existing features.

Regarding claim 16, Rogers '386 teaches the fax data transmission device (Facsimile Apparatus 1, fig. 1), wherein the notifying unit (Third E-Mail Service Unit 18, fig. 2) places the identifier in a message body of the Internet mail ("Tag" is attached to the second call 645 in the call alert box to provide useful information to individual users, col. 39, lines 15-50, fig. 6b).

Regarding claim 17, Fuller '156 discloses the fax data transmission device (10 / 60, figs. 1, 4), wherein the destination information includes location information showing a location of an external device (i.e., If the individual has a pager or beeper, he can "tell" apparatus 60 to call his pager or beeper number and output a code to tell him that he has received a facsimile message which has been stored in his mailbox; see col. 7, lines 45-60),

the destination to which the fax data should actually be sent is determined based on the location information (The user may choose to have the facsimile enhancement apparatus 60 to forward all facsimile messages to another specified location, col. 9, lines 50-55).

Regarding claim 19, Fuller '156 discloses the fax data transmission device (in 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4) further comprising:

a notification destination information receiving unit operable to receive the information showing the correspondence between the original destination of the fax data (remote location/local fax machine, fig. 1) and the send information destination (12, fig. 1), from outside of the fax data transmission device (user is prompted to enter the telephone number (step 90) of the remote location at which he wishes to be notified, col. 8, lines 35-40),

wherein the second storing unit (memory 26, fig. 1) stores the information received by the notification destination information receiving unit (The facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 can also print a notification on the local facsimile machine which will include the time the facsimile message is received, the number of the mailbox in which the message is stored and the sender ID, col. 6, lines 45-65).

Regarding claim 22, Fuller '156 discloses a fax data transmission system (Figs. 1, 4) comprising a fax data transmission device (10/60, figs. 1, 4), an information communication device (12 / 60, figs. 1, 4), and a portable communication device (i.e., remote telephone / voice mail system, since mobile phones generally inherently have voicemail as a standard network feature; see col. 2, lines 65-68 and col. 8, lines 53-55, fig. 6),

the information communication device including:

a first sending unit operable to send information showing a correspondence between an original destination of fax data and a send information destination, to the fax data transmission device (The facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 can also print a

notification on the local facsimile machine which will include the time the facsimile message is received, the number of the mailbox in which the message is stored and the sender ID; see col. 6, lines 45-50),

the fax data transmission device including:

a first receiving unit (in 10/60, figs. 1, 4) operable to receive the information from the first sending unit in the information communication device (a message sent in facsimile compatible form over a telephone system from a first location to a second location to be received at the second location; see Abstract);

a first storing unit (first memory means 24, fig. 1) operable to store the fax data and an identifier for identifying the fax data, in correspondence with each other (The facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 will intercept the incoming data or message and store the information/data in an appropriate mailbox in first memory means 24; see col. 4, lines 35-45);

a second storing unit (second memory means 26, fig. 1) operable to store the information received by the first receiving unit (The information is digitized by the fax modem chip 18 and stored in second memory means 26. The user is prompted by the LCD display 30 to enter the telephone number (step 90) of the remote location at which he wishes to be notified; see col. 8, lines 25-40);

a notifying unit (in 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4) operable to send send information to the send information destination corresponding to the original destination of the fax data with reference to the information stored in the second storing unit (the facsimile enhancement apparatus 10 can cause facsimile messages sent to him to be delivered

to a memory location and that he be notified that he has a facsimile message waiting for him; see col. 2, lines 53-60), the send information including the identifier and a notification (a notification on the local facsimile machine which will include the time the facsimile message is received, the number of the mailbox in which the message is stored and the sender ID, col. 6, lines 45-50) that the fax data identified by the identifier is going to be sent (apparatus 60 to call a telephone number and output a message notifying him that he has received a facsimile message which has been stored in his mailbox; see col. 7, lines 45-60);

a second sending unit (in 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4) operable to send the fax data to the destination specified by the destination information (user may call from a facsimile machine at a remote location and instruct apparatus 60 to transmit the facsimile message on the same phone call and request the apparatus 60 to print his facsimile message on the local facsimile machine; see col. 8, lines 1-7 and col. 9, lines 48-55, fig. 7),

the portable communication device including:

a third receiving unit (i.e., user in travel; col. 2, lines 20-25) operable to receive the send information from the notifying unit in the fax data transmission device (in 10 / 60, figs. 1, 4), when designated as the send information destination (individual has a pager or beeper, he can "tell" apparatus 60 to call his pager or beeper number and output a code to tell him that he has received a facsimile message which has been stored in his mailbox; col. 7, lines 50-60);

a replying unit operable to send the destination information to the fax data

transmission device (sending the facsimile data on demand to the person to which the facsimile data was addressed, col. 2, lines 20-30).

Fuller '156 does not explicitly show a second receiving unit operable to receive destination information for specifying a destination to which the fax data should actually be sent, as a reply to the send information.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Rogers '386. In particular, Rogers '386 teaches a second receiving unit (101, fig. 1) operable to receive destination information for specifying a destination to which the fax data should actually be sent, as a reply to the send information (When notified, the destination party 111, 113 may review the list of unread Fax or data messages and then may request that the Fax or data message be transported to their workstation 114 via the digital network(s) 109, from whence it can be viewed, printed, archived and treated as any other such file; see col. 40, lines 45-50).

In view of the above, having the system of Fuller and then given the well-established teaching of Rogers, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Fuller as taught by Rogers to include: a second receiving unit operable to receive destination information for specifying a destination to which the fax data should actually be sent, as a reply to the send information, since Rogers stated in col. 1, lines 45-47 that such a modification would ensure the system alters the architecture and philosophy of the past, providing the users an array of new features and functions and expanded existing features.

4. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuller et al. (US 5,224,156) in view of Rogers et al. (US 5,946,386), and further in view of Shibata (US 6,825,955).

Regarding claim 18, the combination of Fuller '156 and Rogers '386 does not explicitly show the fax data transmission device, being a multi-functional image forming device which has a copy function of reading a document and forming an image on a recording sheet based on data obtained by reading the document, and a print function of forming an image on a recording sheet based on incoming data.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Shibata '955. In particular, Shibata '955 teaches the fax data transmission device (Facsimile Apparatus 1, fig. 1), being a multi-functional image forming device which has a copy function of reading a document and forming an image on a recording sheet based on data obtained by reading the document (i.e., the facsimile main controller 10 includes an image reading unit, such as a scanner, for reading image data from an original document, which is then handled as facsimile image data to be transmitted to the local communications terminals; Col. 6, lines 1-5), and a print function of forming an image on a recording sheet based on incoming data (i.e., the facsimile main controller 10 further includes an image writing unit, such as a laser printer, for printing onto a recording sheet facsimile image data which has been received from one of the local communications terminals; Col. 6, lines 5-10).

In view of the above, having the system of Fuller and Rogers and then given the well-established teaching of Shibata, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Fuller and Rogers as taught by Shibata to include: the fax data transmission device, being a multi-functional image forming device which has a copy function of reading a document and forming an image on a recording sheet based on data obtained by reading the document, and a print function of forming an image on a recording sheet based on incoming data, since Shibata stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would enhance a unique communications apparatus which is capable of transmitting and receiving facsimile image data through the Internet using its low cost communications capability.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Seki et al. (US 2003/0048484) discloses the recipient transmits a command from the cellular phone indicating how the facsimile data received by the receiving facsimile machine should be handled.

Jeon (US 2002/0176108) discloses a controlling portion causes the fax data to be printed in accordance with the command by the user.

Tanimoto (US 2002/0051146) discloses the control unit causes the facsimile machine to transfer the image data to the determined recipient.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, KING Y. POON can be reached on (571) 272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Allen H. Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

